

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 11, line 22, with the following:*

Specific examples of the alkyl group in the substituents include those described above. Specific examples of the aryl group in the substituents include phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, tolyl, xylyl, mesityl, cumenyl, fluorophenyl, chlorophenyl, bromophenyl, chloromethylphenyl, hydroxyphenyl, methoxyphenyl, ethoxyphenyl, ~~phenoxypnenyl~~ phenoxyphenyl, acetoxyphenyl, benzoyloxyphenyl, methylthiophenyl, phenylthiophenyl, methylaminophenyl, dimethylaminophenyl, acetylaminophenyl, carboxyphenyl, methoxycarbonylphenyl, ethoxycarbonylphenyl, phenoxycarbonylphenyl, N-phenylcarbamoylphenyl, phenyl, nitrophenyl, cyanophenyl, sulfophenyl, ~~sufonatophenyl~~ sulfonatophenyl, phosphonophenyl and phosphonatophenyl groups. Specific examples of the alkenyl group include vinyl, 1-propenyl, 1-butenyl, cinnamyl and 2-chloro-1-ethenyl groups. Specific examples of the alkynyl group include ethynyl, 1-propynyl, 1-butylnyl, trimethylsilylethynyl and phenylethynyl groups.

*Please replace Page 13, line 1, with the following:*

Phenoxymethyl, ~~methylthiomethyl~~ methylthiomethyl, tolylthiomethyl,

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 24, line 7, with the following:*

The ~~carboxylate~~ carboxylato group ( $-\text{CO}_2^-$ ) described above means a conjugate base anion group of a carboxy group ( $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ) as described above. Ordinarily, it is preferred to use together with a counter cation. Examples of the counter cation include those conventionally known, for example, various oniums

(e.g., ammonium, sulfonium, phosphonium iodonium or azinium) and metal ions

(e.g., Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup> or Zn<sup>2+</sup>).

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 57, line 24, with the following:*

Specific examples of the solvent include methanol, ethanol, tertiary butanol, n-propanol, tetrahydrofuran, methyl lactate, ethyl lactate, methyl ethyl ketone, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol diethyl ether, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether,  ~~$\gamma$ -butyllactone~~  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone, N,N-dimethylformamide and N,N-dimethylacetamide, but the present invention should not be construed as being limited thereto. The solvents may be used as a mixture of two or more thereof.

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 74, line 1, with the following:*

The organic peroxide (c), which is still another example of the radical initiator for use in the present invention, includes almost all organic compounds having at least one oxygen-oxygen bond in the molecules thereof. Specific examples of the organic peroxide include methyl ethyl ketone peroxide, cyclohexanone peroxide, 3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexanone peroxide, methylcyclohexanone peroxide, acetylacetone peroxide, 1,1-bis(tert-butylperoxy)-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, 1,1-bis(tert-butylperoxy)cyclohexane, 2,2-bis(tert-butylperoxy)butane, tert-butylhydroperoxide, cumene hydroperoxide, diisopropylbenzene hydroperoxide, paramethane hydroperoxide, 2,5-dimethylhexane-2,5-dihydroperoxide, 1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl hydroperoxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, tert-butylcumyl peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, ~~bis(tert-butylperoxyisopropyl)benzene~~ bis(tert-butylperoxyisopropyl)benzene, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(tert-butylperoxy)hexane, 2,5-

dimethylbenzoyl peroxide, succinic peroxide, benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, ~~methatoluoyl~~ metatoluoyl peroxide, diisopropylperoxy dicarbonate, di-2-ethylhexylperoxy dicarbonate, di-2-ethoxyethylperoxy dicarbonate, dimethoxyisopropylperoxy dicarbonate, di(3-methyl-3-methoxybutyl)peroxy dicarbonate, tert-butylperoxy acetate, tert-butylperoxy pivalate, tert-butylperoxy neodecanoate, tert-butylperoxy octanoate, tert-butylperoxy-3,5,5-trimethyl hexanoate, tert-butylperoxy laurate, tert-butyl carbonate, 3,3',4,4'-tetra(tert-butylperoxycarbonyl)benzophenone, 3,3',4,4'-tetra(tert-amylperoxycarbonyl)benzophenone, 3,3',4,4'-tetra(tert-hexylperoxycarbonyl)benzophenone, 3,3',4,4'-tetra(tert-octylperoxycarbonyl)benzophenone, 3,3',4,4'-tetra(cumylperoxycarbonyl)benzophenone, 3,3',4,4'-tetra(p-isopropylcumylperoxycarbonyl)benzophenone, carbonyl di(tert-butylperoxydihydrogen diphthalate) and carbonyl di(tert-hexylperoxydihydrogen diphthalate).

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 145, line 6, with the following:*

Commercially available dyes and known dyes as described, for example, in Yuki Gosei Kagaku Kyokai ed., Senryo Binran (1970) may also employed. Specific examples of the dye include an azo dye, a metal complex azo dye, a pyrazolone azo dye, a naphthoquinone dye, an anthraquinone dye, a phthalocyanine dye, a carbonium dye, a ~~quinoneimine~~ quinoneimine dye, a methine dye, a diimmonium dye, an aminium dye, a squarylium dye, and a metal thiolate complex.

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 145, line 14, with the following:*

Pigments used as the sensitizing dyes include commercially available pigments and pigments described in Colour Index (C.I.), Nippon Ganryo Gijutsu Kyokai ed., Saishin Ganryo Binran (1977), Saishin Ganryo Oyo Gijutsu, CMC Publishing Co. (1986) and Insatsu Ink Gijutsu, CMC Publishing Co. (1984). The pigments include black pigment, yellow pigment, orange pigment, brown pigment, red pigment, purple pigment, blue pigment, green pigment, fluorescent pigment, metal powder pigment, and polymer-bonding dye. Specific examples of the pigment include an insoluble azo pigment, an azo lake pigment, a condensed azo pigment, a chelate azo pigment, a phthalocyanine pigment, an anthraquinone pigment, a perylene pigment, a ~~perylene~~ perinone pigment, a thioindigo pigment, a quinacridone pigment, a dioxazine pigment, an isoindolinone pigment, a quinophthalone pigment, a Reichardt's dye, an azine pigment, a nitroso pigment, a nitro pigment, a natural pigment, a fluorescent pigment, an organic pigment, and carbon black. Of the pigments, carbon black is preferably used.

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 146, line 24, with the following:*

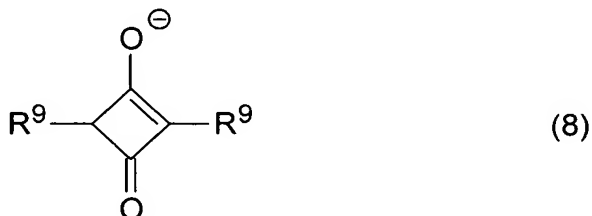
Known dispersing technique used in the production of ink and toner can be utilized for dispersing the pigment. A dispersing machine, for example, an ultrasonic dispersing device, a sand mill, an attriter attritor, a pearl mill, a super mill, a ball mill, an impeller, a disperser, a KD mill, a colloid mill, Dynatron, a three-roll mill or a pressure kneader can be used for dispersion. Details thereof are described in Saishin Ganryo Oyo Gijutsu, CMC Publishing Co. (1986).

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 147, line 7, with the following:*

In the lithographic printing plate precursor according to the present invention, a polymethine dye, for example, a cyanine dye or a (thio)pyrylium dye is used as the particularly preferred infrared absorbing dye from the viewpoints of the absorption wavelength aptitude, solubility, stability and image-forming property. The polymethine dye is ordinarily a cation dye wherein the chromophore has a positive charge, but as a ~~betain-type~~ betaine-type dye having also a negative charge in the chromophore, a polymethine dye having a squarylium skeleton or a croconium skeleton incorporated into the polymethine chain thereof can also be used.

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 152, line 19, with the following:*

Other examples of the dyes having a ~~betain~~ betaine skeleton include dyes represented by the following formulae (8) and (9):



*Please replace the paragraph at Page 163, line 1, with the following:*

The above-described hydrophilic resin may also be used after crosslinking to the extent capable of developing the unexposed area on a printing machine. The crosslinking agent which can be used includes, for example, an aldehyde, e.g., ~~glyoxza~~ glyoxal, a melamine-formaldehyde resin or a urea-formaldehyde resin; a methylol compound, e.g., N-methylolurea, N-methylolmelamine or a methylolated polyamide resin; an active vinyl compound, e.g., divinylsulfone or bis(β-

hydroxyethylsulfonic acid); an epoxy compound, e.g., epichlorohydrin, polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, a polyamide-polyamine-epichlorohydrin addition product or a polyamide-epichlorohydrin resin; an ester compound, e.g., a monochloroacetic acid ester or a ~~thioglycolic~~ thioglycolic acid ester; a polycarboxylic acid, e.g., polyacrylic acid or a methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid copolymer; an inorganic crosslinking agent, e.g., boric acid, titanyl sulfate, a Cu salt, an Al salt, a Sn salt, a V salt or a Cr salt; and a modified polyimide resin.

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 165, line 23, with the following:*

A water-soluble overcoat layer may be provided on the image-forming layer of the lithographic printing plate precursor according to the present invention for preventing the surface of image-forming layer from contamination with lipophilic substances. The water-soluble overcoat layer used in the present invention is a layer which is easily removed at printing and contains a resin selected from a water-soluble organic polymer compound. The water-soluble organic polymer compound used is a compound, a coating film of which formed by coating and drying has a film-forming ability. Specific examples of the water-soluble organic polymer compound include polyvinyl acetate having the hydrolysis degree of at least 65%, polyacrylic acid and alkali metal salt or amine salt thereof, a polyacrylic acid copolymer and alkali metal salt or amine salt thereof, polymethacrylic acid and alkali metal salt or amine salt thereof, a polymethacrylic acid copolymer and alkali metal salt or amine salt thereof, polyacrylamide and copolymer thereof, polyhydroxyethyl acrylate, polyvinylpyrrolidone and copolymer thereof, polyvinyl methyl ether, a vinyl methyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer, poly-2-acrylamido-2-methyl-1-propanesulfonic

acid and alkali metal salt or amine salt thereof, a poly-2-acrylamido-2-methyl-1-propanesulfonic acid copolymer and alkali metal salt or amine salt thereof, gum arabic, a cellulose derivative (for example, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxyethyl cellulose or methyl cellulose) and modified product thereof, white dextrin, ~~pluran~~ pullulan, and enzyme-decomposed etherified dextrin. Two or more of these resins can be used as a mixture thereof according to the purposes.

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 174, line 21, with the following:*

First, the aluminum plate was subjected to a degreasing treatment with a 10% aqueous solution of sodium ~~alminate~~ aluminate at 50°C for 30 seconds for removing rolling oil on the surface thereof and then neutralization and desmut treatments with a 30% aqueous solution of sulfuric acid at 50°C for 30 seconds.

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 175, line 1, with the following:*

Then, a so-called graining treatment for roughening a surface of the support was carried out for improving adhesion between the support and the image-forming layer and also imparting a water-retaining property to the non-image area. Specifically, the aluminum web was transported in an aqueous solution containing 1% nitric acid and 0.5% aluminum nitrate, which had been maintained at 45°C, while applying an anode side quantity of electricity of 240C/dm<sup>2</sup> at a current density of 20 A/dm<sup>2</sup> and an AC wave-form of a duty ratio of 1 : 1 by means of an indirect electric power supply cell, whereby electrolytic graining was conducted. The aluminum web was then subjected to an etching treatment with a 10% aqueous solution of sodium

~~alminate~~ aluminate at 50°C for 30 seconds, and neutralization and desmut treatments with a 30% aqueous solution of sulfuric acid at 50°C for 30 seconds.

*Please replace the paragraph at Page 177, line 7, with the following:*

To a mixed solution of 12.2 g of poly-p-hydroxystyrene (weight average molecular weight: 8,000), 15.5 g of 2-methacryloyloxyethyl isocyanate and 500 ml of ~~tetrahydroxyfuran~~ tetrahydrofuran was added 10 g of triethylamine, and the mixture was raised to 70°C with stirring, followed by reacting for 3 hours.